



N.H. Department of Environmental Services



Fluorescent Lamp Recycling Options

Town Recycling Programs – Many towns accept fluorescent lamps (lightbulbs) on a year-round basis and most municipal Household Hazardous Waste Collection events accept lamps from homeowners. The list of towns accepting lamps is constantly changing. Please check with your local transfer station for recycling options. If they do not accept lamps, they are required by law to provide you with options. Most Household Hazardous Waste collection events also allow “out-of-towners” to bring lamps and wastes to their annual events, although they generally charge a fee. A list of Household Hazardous Waste collection events may be viewed at <http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/p2au/pps/hhwp/index.htm>.

Home Depot, Lowes and Aubuchon Hardware Stores – Home Depot and Lowes will accept and recycle Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs) only, and recycle them at no cost to the consumer. Aubuchon Hardware stores will accept and recycle fluorescent lamps on a “buy one; recycle one” basis. You should contact your local stores as not all may be offering this service.

Self-transport to recycling facilities – Homeowners and businesses may transport their lamps directly to a recycler. Lamps must be transported in such a manner as to prevent breakage and in proper containers that prevent any loss of mercury to the environment, in the case of breakage. The current rate for recycling lamp is around \$0.05 per linear foot for straight lamps or around \$0.35 per compact fluorescent, U-tube, etc. A list of recyclers may be viewed at <http://www.des.state.nh.us/organization/commissioner/p2au/pps/ppuwmp/documents/lamp-recyclers-vendors.pdf>.

Professional fluorescent lamp transporters – Businesses and homeowners can call for a pick up by either the recycling facility or one of several transporters. Most lamp recycling facilities can provide the name of “lamp pick up” services that bring lamps to their recycling facility. This is convenient but may involve either a minimum transportation charge or minimum number of lamps. The collector may be willing to accept a small number of lamps if you meet them at a business location where they are picking up a large number of lamps.

Lamp Recycling Kits – These kits consist of a properly constructed box that once filled with spent lamps, is mailed to an approved recycling facility via common carrier. The purchase cost of the kit includes the shipping charge and recycling fee. This is extremely convenient but costs about twice as much, per lamp, as recycling directly with the facility. Most fluorescent lamp recyclers provide mailing kits.

Give Lamps to a Neighbor – Finally, if you are a homeowner moving from your home or have to quickly “get rid” of your lamps (or other unwanted hazardous materials), give them to a neighbor who can hold on to the lamps or materials and bring them to the town’s Household Hazardous Waste Collection event.

By law, businesses must manage spent fluorescent lamps as either a Hazardous or Universal Waste. Although the above-listed options may be available to them at no cost, businesses should keep a record of mercury-added devices they recycle.

If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie D’Agostino at 271-6398 or stephanie.dagostino@des.nh.gov